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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 003605

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [SP](#) [UNSC](#)

SUBJECT: A MID-TERM LOOK AT SPAIN'S SECURITY COUNCIL
PRESIDENCY

Classified By: Acting Political Counselor Robert J. Riley for reasons 1
.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) SUMMARY. Poloff discussed Spain's Security Council September presidency with Juan Manuel Gonzalez de Linares, MFA Deputy Director of United Nations Affairs, and Enrique de Yturriaga Saldanha, MFA head of UNSC Issues. Both stressed that Spain has tried to be an "honest broker" as the head of the UNSC, where Spain's advocacy of issues has been toned down. Spain's priorities during their presidency include: a discussion among UNSC foreign ministers on the "civilian aspects of conflict management and peace building;" the crises in Sudan and Congo; the ongoing stability and reconstruction efforts in Iraq; peacekeeping efforts in Haiti and Afghanistan; counter-terrorism; UNSC mandates and reports in Ethiopia and Eritrea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cyprus; and continued instability in the Middle East. Spain is interested in structural reform of the UN to include UNSC enlargement, but not an expansion of permanent members, and there is currently a debate within the MFA over how to proceed with the reform. END SUMMARY

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT SESSION

2. (U) Spain would like to take advantage of the presence of many foreign ministers in New York on September 22 to discuss what the GOS is terming the "civilian aspects of conflict management and peace building." Spain has distributed a discussion document to members of the UNSC and looks forward to making this discussion the highlight of its presidency.

CRISES IN SUDAN AND CONGO

3. (C) The crises in Sudan and Congo continue to be high priorities. Spain has been involved in trying to achieve acceptable language for an additional UNSC resolution on the Darfur crisis in Sudan. Spain favored many elements of a US draft resolution on Darfur, but placed greater emphasis on the role of the African Union and the construction of international commissions to review human rights abuses. Spain favors MONUC troop expansion in the Congo. Spain has been working with other UNSC members on proposals to expand MONUC into new regions and add a rapid force that would help maintain the arms embargo and assist in the Congolese electoral process.

IRAQ

4. (U) On Iraq, Spain was eager to see the results of reports on the Multinational Force from the U.S. and the Secretary General's office. The GOS views these reports as

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important because they are the first reports since sovereignty was transferred to the Iraqis from the Coalition Provisional Authority. UNSG Special Representative for Iraq Ashraf Qazi briefed the UNSC on the situation in Iraq September 14. His briefing noted that the "vicious cycle of violence" is undermining UN efforts to rebuild Iraq.

HAITI AND AFGHANISTAN

5. (U) UN missions in Haiti and Afghanistan continue to be important to Spain because of the deployment of Spanish troops in peacekeeping operations in those countries. The Spanish Council of Ministers authorized the sending of 200 Spanish troops to Haiti as part of a joint Moroccan-Spanish battalion on September 10, and the Ministry of Defense has said Spanish troops will be operational in Afghanistan by September 27. There will be a report by the UNSG on the current situation in Haiti on September 26.

COUNTER-TERRORISM

6. (C) Gonzalez de Linares stressed that Spain would like to make UNSC efforts more efficient and dynamic. Former Spanish ambassador to the U.S. Javier Ruperez is now the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate at the Assistant Secretary-General level, and Spain would like to build on his experience with the issue. Yturriaga stressed that the issue of counter-terrorism was very important to Spain, but that Spain would likely work through committees to promote the issue and that there probably would not be UNSC action during their Presidency.

ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA

17. (U) The UNSC unanimously adopted UNSCR 1560 to extend the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) on September 14. Spain along with other UNSC members is concerned about the lack of progress in the border demarcation between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

OTHER MANDATES

18. (U) The UNSC will review mandates in Liberia and Sierra Leone before the end of the month. The UNSG will also introduce a report by the end of the month on the next steps in Cyprus, and there should also be an update on the UN's peacekeeping mission in Bougainville.

THE MIDDLE EAST

19. (C) Spain will continue to welcome proposals that enhance security and stability in the region. Spain is following developments very closely in the recent UNSC resolution pressuring Syria to respect Lebanese sovereignty. Both Linares de Gonzalez and Yturriaga agreed that unanticipated issues concerning the Middle East were likely to come before the UNSC during Spain's presidency.

SECURITY COUNCIL STRUCTURAL REFORM

10. (C) Both Gonzalez de Linares and Yturriaga said that Spain supports any UNSC reform that would serve the interests of all member states and improve the efficiency of the UNSC. Spain does not favor more permanent members of the UNSC, but additional nonpermanent members could provide a more representative UNSC. Spain would like to see more cooperation between the UNSC, UNGA, and ECOSOC.

11. (C) Yturriaga told Poloff that there are differing views in the MFA on the issue. Some members of the MFA want permanent UNSC members to only have veto power over issues in Chapter 7 of the UN charter; they would like to require at least two vetoes by permanent members for all other issues.

12. (C) There will be a panel report on UN structural reform before December that will include UNSC structural reform ideas. The report likely will fuel discussion on possible changes in the UNSC. Spain does not have an official positions on many of the likely reform ideas, but there is clearly a lively debate within the MFA over what a more representative UNSC would look like.

ARGYROS